

TRIBUTE TO SARAH MAE
FLEMMING BROWN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the late Sarah Mae Flemming Brown for her valiant contributions to the cause of civil and human rights. Her place in history has not been fully recognized, but her determination to seek equity and fair treatment in our society deserves to be illuminated.

Ms. Flemming is an unsung hero whose pioneering quest to end segregation and racial hatred isn't told in our classrooms the way that so many other triumphant sagas are recounted, and in fact she didn't even tell the story to her children. But I want to recount her heroic stand, so it can from this point forward be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On June 22, 1954, the 20-year old maid boarded a bus in much the same manner that Rosa Parks later did. She took the only empty seat, one she believed began the rows in which black riders were allowed to sit. The driver challenged her, and humiliated, she signaled to get off at the next stop. The bus driver blocked her attempt to exit through the front of the bus and punched her in the stomach as he ordered her out the rear door. She wasn't trying to prove a point, and certainly there was no way of knowing how her apparently simple gesture of defiance would lead to monumental changes in our Nation's fundamental values.

Civil rights activists in Columbia, SC, heard of Ms. Flemming's ordeal and through Ms. Mojeska Simpkins enlisted Attorney Phillip Wittenberg, a white attorney in Columbia to represent her. *Flemming v. South Carolina Electric and Gas* was filed on July 21, 1954 in U.S. District Court. The allegation was that Ms. Flemming's 14th amendment right to equal protection had been violated.

On February 16, 1955, Federal District Judge George Bell Timmerman, Sr. dismissed the case. Ms. Flemming appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and her case was argued on June 21, 1955. The Fourth Circuit reversed Judge Timmerman on July 14, 1955 and "remanded the case for further proceedings." SCE&G appealed the decision of the Appeals Court. On April 23, 1956, the United States Supreme Court dismissed SCE&G's appeal, and on June 13, 1956, Judge Timmerman dismissed the case once again.

Throughout this entire ordeal Ms. Flemming and Attorney Wittenberg endured intimidation and cross-burnings from the KKK. Things took their toll on Mr. Wittenberg and he decided not to handle a second appeal. Attorneys Matthew Perry and Lincoln Jenkins became the new lawyers of record for Ms. Flemming, and with their help and the help of NAACP lawyers the Fourth Circuit once again remanded the case to the trial court.

While Ms. Flemming was fighting her battle in Columbia, SC, things began fermenting in other parts of the South. On December 1, 1955, a now famous seamstress, Rosa Parks, boarded a city bus in Montgomery, AL, in much the same fashion as Sarah Flemming did on June 22, 1954, some 18 months before. Few people are aware of Ms. Flemming's

story. Timing and significant forces combined to keep her story from common knowledge.

Judge George Bell Timmerman, Sr.'s son, George Bell Timmerman, Jr.—an avowed segregationist—was elected Governor of South Carolina in November 1954, and conspired with the local newspaper, the State, to black out, or it might be more appropriate to say, white out civil rights activities taking place in South Carolina. Consequently, history records that the United States Supreme Court case involving Rosa Parks decided on November 13, 1956 desegregated public transportation, although the Court had made clear in its remand of Ms. Flemming's case five months earlier, what the law of the land was.

Ms. Flemming went on to marry John Brown of Gaston County, N.C., and they had three children. She poured her heart and soul into Goodwill Baptist Church in Eastover, SC, and occasionally continued to work as a housekeeper. A heart attack brought on by diabetes took Mrs. Sarah Mae Flemming Brown just before her 60th birthday in 1993, a few months after I became the first African-American elected to this august body. Her death ended a seemingly simple life that had an extraordinary impact on this country.

The story of Ms. Flemming reminds us of the social progress that has been made in one generation and the progress that continues to be made as a testament to the vision and courage of such an advocate of American freedom and equality. Her legal team, that fought with her all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, should also be commended for their insight and vision that would help lead to so many future legal triumphs toward ending government-imposed segregation. Ms. Flemming Brown's heroic actions should remind them and us that "if a tree were to fall in a wood and nobody's there to hear it, does not mean it does not make a sound."

I invite my colleagues to join me today in thanking Sarah Flemming Brown for providing the precedent that led to the desegregation of public transportation in these United States. We should also appreciate the great loyalty she and her family and friends have kept to South Carolina. I am humbled to share her story today for all to appreciate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House on Tuesday, September 20th, due to a previous and unavoidable commitment. Therefore, I was unable to vote on H.R. 3761, the Flexibility for Displaced Workers Act (rollcall No. 476), and H. Res. 441, a resolution to congratulate the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Discovery crew (rollcall No. 477). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both of these measures considered by the House.

TRIBUTE TO HIS HOLINESS
ARAM I

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to join my Armenian American constituents of California's 27th Congressional District in welcoming His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia to the State of California.

His Holiness Aram I was elected Catholicos on June 28, 1995. Four years earlier, His Holiness had been selected to serve as the Moderator for the World Council of Churches (WCC). This prominent ecumenical organization is composed of more than 340 churches from around the world and represents over 400 million Christians. His Holiness is the first Orthodox Christian and the youngest person to be elevated to the post of Moderator of the WCC.

Aram I was ordained a priest in 1968 and obtained the title of Vartabed (Doctor of the Armenian Church) in 1970. In 1979 he was elected Primate of the Armenian Orthodox community in Lebanon. The next year he received his Episcopal ordination. His tenure as Primate of the Armenian community in Lebanon coincided with the Lebanese Civil War. During this time and after, His Holiness reorganized parishes and schools, restructured and reactivated church-related institutions, and renewed community leadership.

As a strong supporter of inter-religious relations, dialogue and cooperation, Aram I has played a significant part in promoting common values, mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence among religions. He has worked tirelessly as Primate to foster tolerance and build mutual confidence between Christian and Muslim communities.

His Holiness is also active as a scholar and has written several books in which he frequently admonishes the vital importance of dialogue and collaboration among the living faiths of the world.

We can expect a message of peace and unity when His Holiness addresses the Los Angeles World Affairs Council on October 14th, 2005. His Holiness will also present the main address at a symposium to be held at the University of Southern California that will focus on how Christians respond to violence. I am honored that the Catholicos will be visiting the 27th District on October 7th to preside over church services to be held at Holy Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church in Encino, California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the His Holiness Aram I, a man who has been a strong voice for mutual understanding among religions, cultures and civilizations; a true spiritual leader committed to peace, justice, and human rights.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SIMON
WIESENTHAL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respects to and celebrate the life of Simon

Wiesenthal, a hero to everyone who believes in truth and justice.

Simon Wiesenthal's dedication to the capture of the vicious Nazi murderers touched millions who wanted justice for their pain, suffering and loss. He was a survivor who spent years in Nazi death camps, until 1945 when he was liberated by American soldiers. Rather than live in fear or permit the perpetrators behind those terrible atrocities live free, he hunted down Nazis that murdered innocent Jewish men, women, and children during the Holocaust so that they could be prosecuted. According to some accounts, his hard work led to over 1100 criminals being brought to justice.

Simon Wiesenthal's fight to ensure justice brought to light many of the grave problems that remained after World War II that many did not want to acknowledge. At a time when some may have wished to sweep the past under the rug, Simon Wiesenthal would not allow it. He changed history, by forcing all of us to confront history. For that we owe him a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to rise and pay tribute to this great man and his efforts for justice and truth. We will never forget the 6 million Jews who died and we will never forget Simon Wiesenthal.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THOMAS L. ORTOSKY FOR HIS
HEROIC ACTIONS AND SELFLESS
DEEDS AS A LETTER CARRIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Thomas L. Ortosky, as he receives the National Association of Letter Carriers' Regional Hero Award. His sincere, heroic and selfless act saved the lives of two young girls from his beloved community.

Mr. Ortosky was working from his delivery vehicle when he noticed two young girls on their bikes and a pack of dogs chasing after them. With no hesitation, Mr. Ortosky ran from his vehicle and fearlessly began to distract the dogs even though he was risking his own safety and perhaps his life. His good-hearted action worked. The girls rode off to safety while Mr. Ortosky bravely held off the dogs. The pack of dogs began nipping at him but Mr. Ortosky never hesitated. It was not until the dogs were captured by the animal warden that Mr. Ortosky was out of harm's way. And ever so dutifully and good-natured, Mr. Ortosky continued on his delivery route without ever notifying anyone about the incident and his heroic deed.

However, Mr. Ortosky's valiant and honorable deed did not go unnoticed. His grateful patrons reported the incident. With thanks from his community and the National Association of Letter Carriers' it is with great pride that as his representative I can recognize this great American.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Thomas L. Ortosky. Mr. Ortosky is truly a hero. He is a selfless and genuine human being and a role model for the people of his community as well as the country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday September 6 through Thursday September 8, I was unable to attend for vote Nos. 456 through 464 due to a death in my family. Had I been present on rollcall vote No. 456, I would have voted, "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 457, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 458, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 459, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall vote No. 460, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 461, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 462, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 463, I would have voted "aye"; on rollcall vote No. 464, I would have voted "aye."

I ask that the appropriate mentions be made in the RECORD.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JENNY BLAU

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jenny Blau, a dedicated, intelligent and compassionate woman whom I have been fortunate to have as part of my staff for the past two and a half years.

Since Jenny's first day in the office, she has approached each and every task I have given her with dedication. Jenny joined my office in February 2003 as an unpaid fellow and quickly assumed a role as a Legislative Assistant. As a Legislative Assistant, Jenny has been the point person for the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and has overseen legislation dealing with domestic violence, senior issues, and the murders of women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Her extensive knowledge of women's issues and health care has proved invaluable. Jenny has played a pivotal role in raising awareness about women in the military, violence against women, and other issues that affect women.

Jenny's understanding of the challenges facing the Latino community has been particularly important to me. Jenny has organized numerous briefings and events to heighten awareness about the murder of women in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and domestic violence. She has also overseen successful events sponsored by Lifetime Television, the Oxygen Network and the Democratic Women's Working Group. These projects have left a lasting impact on the lives of women in the 32nd Congressional District of California and nationwide.

Jenny's kindness, work ethic, and professionalism have earned her the trust and respect of her colleagues and women's groups. I am very proud that she will follow her passion of medicine at the Georgetown University Medical School. I wish Jenny the best of luck in life and in all of her endeavors. *Le deseo la mejor de las suertes a Jenny. Un dicho popular dice: "El que persevera, alcanza."* Estoy segura que Jenny logrará todas sus metas.

THE MICROBICIDE DEVELOPMENT ACT: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 21, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with my colleagues Representative CHRIS SHAYS and DANNY K. DAVIS in introducing the Microbicide Development Act, along with twenty seven of our colleagues. This bipartisan legislation recognizes the need to coordinate and accelerate federal microbicide research and development programs in order to provide a new and effective tool in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic here and around the world. At the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok last year, microbicide development was listed at one of the "10 most promising biotechnologies for improving global health." It is time that we turn that promise into reality.

Microbicide products that can be applied topically—like gels or foams—are being developed today to help prevent the spread of HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases in women. Microbicides would block infection by creating a barrier between the pathogen and its target cells. A computer modeling study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine found that if an effective microbicide were used by 20 percent of women in just 73 low-income countries, it would prevent 2.5 million HIV infections over three years.

The Microbicide Development Act would help us realize the life-saving potential of microbicides. It would require development and implementation of a federal strategic plan to coordinate ongoing activities among the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United States Agency of International Development (USAID). Through this increased emphasis and annual reports to Congress, we can ensure that the United States moves forward effectively and quickly as part of the global effort to stop AIDS.

The need to act to cut HIV infections and AIDS deaths is overwhelming and immediate. Most of us are aware of the stark figures. In the last 25 years, 40 million people around the world have been infected with the disease. Nearly 3 million lives are lost each year. In Africa alone, it is projected that 80 million people will die by 2025 unless we act decisively to stop the spread of AIDS.

Not as many are aware of the changing face of HIV/AIDS—the growth of infection rates among women. Over 14,000 people are infected with HIV each and every day—about 7,000 of them are women. Many of these women live in monogamous relationships but, because they are unable or too afraid to ask their husbands or partners to use condoms, they have no prevention tools at their disposal.

In fact, as Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, director of the non-profit International Partnership for Microbicides, points out, "For women, in many parts of the world, being poor, young and married are the most significant risk factors for acquiring HIV infection." Microbicides—products like gels or foams that can be applied topically—would provide an effective prevention tool that women can use to protect themselves, without having to rely on their partners.